

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A radially expandable luminal prosthesis comprising:  
2 a cylindrical frame having a distal end, a proximal end, and an outer  
3 surface for insertion into a body lumen, wherein said frame comprises a radiopaque  
4 material which varies in thickness over an axial length of the cylindrical frame so that the  
5 radiopacity of the frame varies correspondingly.
- 1 2. A radially expandable luminal prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein the  
2 cylindrical frame comprises stainless steel and a radiopaque material is coated over the  
3 stainless steel.
- 1 3. A radially expandable luminal prosthesis as in claim 2, wherein the  
2 radiopaque material is selected from the group consisting of gold, platinum,  
3 platinum/iridium, tungsten, and tantalum.
- 1 4. A radially expandable luminal prosthesis as in any of claims 1 to 3,  
2 wherein the radiopaque material is thicker near the ends of the cylindrical frame than over  
3 the midsection.
- 1 5. An improved radially expandable luminal prosthesis of the type  
2 comprising a cylindrical frame having a distal end, a proximal end, and a midsection  
3 therebetween, wherein the cylindrical frame is modified to be radiopaque at each end but  
4 to remain sufficiently radiolucent over the midsection to permit fluoroscopic viewing of a  
5 blood vessel lumen in which the prosthesis is implanted.

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